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time. These same rumors I repeated to the Grand Jury when they summoned me as a witness and I gave them the names of various people who had in private discussed the matter with me. It was of course very important to put a stop to the slanders but I must protest against being made a scapegoat for the real offenders. So far from being hostile to the Red Cross, I am a member of it and am constantly working for it. My friends realize that Judge Hand's imputations are preposterous but as his statements might be credited by the general public, I published a denial in the New York and Boston newspapers.

Boston

EMMA B. CULBERTSON.

BIRTH CONTROL

Dear Editor: In the JOURNAL for June are two interesting papers about Birth Control. The writer agrees with some of the opinions of the authors, with others he does not. He is of the opinion that birth control in any shape or form or for any purpose whatsoever, is not only against God's law but is also certainly injurious to the woman's health. The Catholic Church permits her married adherents to live together as celibates if they mutually so desire, but as soon as they make use of the married privileges they then must put up with the consequences, that is the possible offspring. The writer as a student sat at the feet of that good physician, Dr. Goodell, professor of gynecology in the University of Pennsylvania, and listened to the words of wisdom which used to come from his mouth. Many a time while lecturing, it would be noticed that he stooped and whispered to the patient. On her removal he would tell the class that he had asked her if she had interfered with conception. Then he would tell the class that her ills and many of the ills of women were due to this cause, the prevention of conception. This teaching of the professor made on the writer a great impression, in consequence of which he has observed, through a long medical career, the bad effects both morally and physically, which contraceptive methods have on our women. The main function of the woman is to bear children. Although made for that end, strange to say, the writer has noticed that if the woman remains single, provided she be virtuous, her health will not suffer. But let that woman marry, let her make use of her marriage rights, let her try at the same time to prevent conception, she will be always ailing. The appearance of her countenance will show the expert what is her practice. Any one who interferes with nature's laws will always pay the penalty. But let that same woman not interfere with conception but take willingly all the children coming to her, even if it be a baker's dozen, it will be found that in the most number of instances, she will live to a healthy old age, provided the tears of the cervix and perineum are repaired. We are told by some of our so-called physicians that a woman who is tubercular or who has some serious chronic disease should not bear children. That may be correct, but there is only one legitimate way by which that woman who is afflicted, can prevent children without danger to her health and that is by abstaining from her marital rights. If that woman who is diseased should make use of her marriage privileges, her health would be in more danger by the interference with conception, then it would be if she permitted a conception to take place and the consequent pregnancy go on to full term. A woman who is averse to bearing children should never marry. A life of single blessedness for her, provided she remain virtuous, will be much better for the health of her soul and body. If our girls were properly clothed, properly educated, in other words, if the making of them as future mothers was begun after they left the cradle, they would be better fitted to enter

married life, and pregnancy and labor would have no terrors for them. Labor is a physiological process and if properly managed, the dangers to life are reduced to a minimum. Birth control in New England has practically wiped out the descendants of the Puritans and has replaced them with another race, the Irish. Birth control is also the reason why, in a few more generations, this section of the country will be peopled not by the descendants of the original settlers but by the descendants of the Italians, the Poles, Hungarians and Russians, who no doubt, will make as good citizens as the original settlers or their too few descendants, because they do not violate one of nature's most fundamental laws, and act in accordance with the command given by God to Noah and his sons. "Increase and multiply and fill the earth."

Philadelphia

JOHN F. ROEDERER, M.D.

AN APPEAL: FROM A REST BILLET

If you want to appreciate what Army nursing means at this time, serve a few months in a Cantonment, then be obliged to give it up temporarily—just play you are a "jelly fish" while others are "carrying on." Never a day but you will wish yourself back nor that you don't say, "Even if I am permanently an invalid, it was worth while." Why do you hesitate to enlist? Is it because your parents need you? Didn't the little widow in the next block, who is perhaps taking in washings that her service flag may proudly fly, need her boy? And didn't her boy go, so that your mother and his might be saved from the fate of the Belgian mothers? Are you putting a sister through college? What benefit will that education be to her if the Germans hold the fort? Can it be that the five dollars a day and thoughts of the future rainy day are keeping you? If it is the Kaiser's reign you'll need more than money to see you through. Aside from the feeling of duty and patriotism, there are many other reasons why you will never be sorry if you come into the service now and regret it to the last day of your life if you don't. You have never known such satisfying kind of nursing, you are so needed, professionally and as a friend. Many of the soldiers have never been away from home before and when they are sick, maybe the first time during their busy days in camp, they have had time to be homesick and dwell upon the thoughts of what may be waiting for them "over there." Not that our soldier boys are a blue lot, far from it. I never could imagine a better-natured, more uncomplaining and appreciative crowd than they are. You will be expected to be equally appreciative of their mothers' letters, their best girls' pictures, their fathers' horses, etc., and the dressing of that wound, made by a "four-legged mule," as one boy explained, won't hurt nearly so much if the superiority of his outfit is being discussed. If you have stayed on a little late to give a last hot water bottle or rub an aching back and have heard one boy whisper to his neighbor, "Gee, Buddie, what would we do without the nurses?" don't you think you will be glad you came and proud to belong? But if you don't, what then in after years? "Where was I during the war?" Many will be able to answer satisfactorily, for there is much to be said for the institutional, public health and social service nurses. Are you one of these? If not, won't you think it over and see if, conscientiously, you can refuse to bear your part of the burden for your country's sake, your profession's and your own.

New Mexico

T. B.